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## CIA 'Atrocities' Story Stirs Row

New York Herald Tribune Wire

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency and State Department were thrown into an uproar Wednesday when a news dispatch reported Sen. Stephen M. Young as saying he had been told the CIA had committed atrocities in Viet Nam to discredit the Viet Cong.

But the 76-year-old Ohio Democrat told the Herald Tribune News Service "I did not say that."

His earlier purported statement elicited an immediate denial from the usually silent CIA — "absolutely false," a spokesman protested — and deep anguish among State Department officials who feared his reported remarks would have disastrous repercussions abroad.

Those reactions stemmed from a news agency dispatch quoting Young as saying that a CIA agent in Viet Nam told him the CIA committed atrocities there to underscore the Viet Cong guerrillas reputation for cruelty.

Asked about the report, Young modified it considerably.

He told the Herald Tribune News Service that "a man who claimed to be working for the CIA" in Viet Nam alleged the intelligence agency had hired some South Vietnamese to masquerade as Viet Cong, adding:

"It was alleged to me that several of these executed two village leaders and raped some women."

In an elaboration of the remarks attributed earlier to

him, the senator indicated at one point he believed a group of the purported masqueraders had committed the alleged atrocities.

But he then added, "I still don't know, I don't believe such an incident occurred, but I could see how it could have occurred."

And he said on returning to Washington from South Viet Nam he had asked CIA about the purported incident and had been told the intelligence agency "would not sanction that."

"CIA has employed some South Vietnamese and they have been instructed to claim they are Viet Cong and to work accordingly," the senator said, "but of course no one could tell me any American instructed anyone to perpetrate outrages."

It is unknown if the senator's elaboration will ever catch up with the remarks credited earlier to him.

They caused wide consternation here. A CIA spokesman said "as far as our agents having done such things (committed atrocities), the statement is absolutely false."